

PHYSICAL CONDITION, PRODUCTIVITY AND QUALITY OF NUTRITION
OF BIGHORN SHEEP IN THE SUN RIVER AREA, MONTANA

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Crude fiber and protein content of rumen samples, crude fiber in fecal samples and percent light transmittancy of rumen liquor samples for each of 10 adult ewes collected in spring were determined.

A kidney fat index was determined for each of the animals. Kidney fat indices indicated all bighorn sheep with the exception of one were in good condition.

The values for protein and crude fiber may represent at least minimal and maximal values respectively for bighorn sheep on adequate ranges.

A negative correlation between percent light transmittancy for rumen liquor and nutritive quality was found.

Each pair of ovaries of 10 adult ewes collected during spring contained one corpus luteum which, together with embryo counts, indicated a frequency of fertilization of 100 percent. No evidence of twinning was found.